

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An intelligent product catalog system for electronic creation, management and viewing of product information using a multimedia display system comprising:
 - 5 a central database repository for storing the product information providing for an unlimited number of product attributes and dynamic reconfiguration of the product information,
 - the central database repository comprising a meta data system, a scheme system and an object model system.
- 10 2. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - 15 a plurality of applications accessing the central database repository, the applications being automatically adaptive to the dynamic reconfiguration of the product information.
3. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - 15 a user interface providing display, sorting and filtering of the product information including the unlimited number of product attributes.
4. The system of Claim 3 wherein specific products are selected based upon the product information, the selected products composing a system.
5. The system of Claim 3 wherein specific products the product information, the selected products comprising components.
- 20 6. The system of Claim 3 wherein the display is dynamically rerendered to reflect added product options.

7. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:
a plurality of applications accessing the central database repository, the applications being automatically adaptive to the dynamic reconfiguration of the product information; and
5 a user interface providing display, sorting and filtering of the unlimited number of product attributes.

8. The system of Claim 1 wherein the scheme system provides configuration rules for configuring products based on the product information.

9. The system of Claim 8 wherein the configuration rules provide for presenting only valid configurations of product options for the products.

10. The system of Claim 8 wherein the configuration rules provide budget based configuration analysis such only the addition of product options that are within a predefined limit are presented.

11. The system of Claim 9 wherein the budget is based upon at least one of: dimensions, weight, temperature, power consumption, air flow and cost.

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12. The system of Claim 8 wherein the configuration rules provide for presenting completed product bill of materials information prior to the bill of materials information entering an order entry system.

13. The system of Claim 8 wherein the configuration rules provide for presenting only options that do not conflict with other options already selected for the product.

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14. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a reporting engine for tracking and recording activity of actual product selection criteria used during a user session.

15. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a syndication and publication system providing for exporting of custom formatted product information.

5 16. The system of Claim 15 wherein the exporting is done periodically at predefined intervals.

10 17. The system of Claim 1 wherein the display further comprises an intelligent bill of materials displaying selected products and selected options for displaying products associated with a system, the display providing drill down for detailed information on the product.

18. The system of Claim 1 wherein the product information describes network infrastructure products.

15 19. A method providing an intelligent product catalog for electronic creation, management and viewing of product information using a multimedia display system comprising:
accessing a central database repository for storing the product information providing for an unlimited number of product attributes and dynamic reconfiguration of the product information,

20 the central database repository comprising a meta data system, a scheme system and an object model system.

20. A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium for providing an intelligent product catalog for electronic creation, management and viewing of product information using a multimedia display system;

5 a set of computer program instructions embodied on the computer usable medium, including instructions to:

access a central database repository for storing the product information providing for an unlimited number of product attributes and dynamic reconfiguration of the product information,

10 the central database repository comprising a meta data system, a scheme system and an object model system.